



State of Utah


DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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July 30, 2001

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Paul Baker, Reclamation Biologist 

RE: Meeting with Salt Lake County and the Permittee, Corporation of the Presiding Bishopric, Little Cottonwood Granite Quarry, S/035/017, Salt Lake County, Utah

Date of Meeting: July 30, 2001
Time of Meeting: 8:00 to 9:45 a.m.
Participants: Greg Baptist, Darlene Batatian, Debbie Riddle, and Calvin Schneller - Salt Lake County; Kerry Nielsen - Corporation of the Presiding Bishopric; Paul Baker and Lynn Kunzler - DOGM

Purpose of the meeting:

To discuss with the mine operator the results of the July 18, 2001, site inspection and expectations of the county and state.

Discussion:

We talked about state and county reclamation requirements compared to conditions we found during the July 18, 2001, site inspection. Salt Lake County normally requires three trees planted for every tree removed during a project of this nature. The size of replacement is based on the size of pre-existing trees that are removed. In this case, 2-½ to 3-inch caliper trees were to be used. Before the operation began, Mr. Baptist counted 225 trees in the area that was to be disturbed; therefore, the county would normally expect about 675 trees to be planted. This is not a Division requirement

The Division requires at least 70 percent of the predisturbance vegetation cover to be reestablished. Mr. Kunzler said there is about 50 percent vegetation cover in adjacent areas, so the site should have a minimum of 35% vegetation cover. The area now has less than 10 percent cover from desirable vegetation. Mr. Nielsen said the operator seeded the area, but there was little vegetation that became established from seed.

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We talked about requests from various climbing groups that they be allowed access across the property. Although the operator acknowledges people are continuing to use the reclaimed area for access to bouldering areas on the upper edges and above the site, they are concerned about liability and do not want to cooperate in building or allowing trails across the property.

Conclusions and Recommendations:

We decided it is probably not feasible for the operator to plant 2-½-inch caliper trees; however, for the county to grant a variance to this requirement, they need to have a recommendation from a professional landscaper or nurseryman to this effect. Assuming this recommendation is forthcoming, the county expects to allow the operator to plant smaller trees. The operator would plant about 300 additional trees, and the success standard would be to have 225 surviving after two years. **Again, this is not a Division requirement.**

The site receives enough precipitation that there is a high probability of revegetation success from seeding. The operator will reseed the area this fall (October) and will give consideration to using the seed mix recommended by the Division (see July 18, 2001, inspection memo). We strongly recommend the operator reseed the area.

We informed Mr. Nielsen of the requirement by the state to maintain the permit until revegetation is successful and for at least three years after the last seeding. The Division will respond officially to the operator's request to inspect and close the file.

jb
cc: Greg Baptist, Salt Lake County
Kerry Nielsen, Corporation of the Presiding Bishopric
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